

On page 5, lines 30-33, kindly rewrite the paragraph as follows:

a4 --Figure 2 illustrates diagrammatically the incorporation of purine rich regions into an amplification product, using 5' – tagging of primers with polypyrimidine sequences;--.

On page 6, line 3, kindly insert:

a5 --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

In the Abstract

At the end of the application, kindly insert the following paragraph as an abstract of the disclosure:

a6 --A method for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample that comprises (a) amplifying the target nucleic acid and introducing a purine rich region into the target sequence during the amplification reaction so that the product of the amplification reaction includes a purine rich region; (b) contacting the sample with a peptide nucleic acid able to bind at least a portion of said target sequence; and (c) detecting the presence of triplex structures, wherein the detection of the presence of triplex structures indicates the presence of target nucleic acid sequences in the sample. The detection is suitably effected directly, for example, using a surface plasmon resonance detector.--